INCREASED IMPORTANCE OF THE NEGOTIATION

WITH SPAIN-GRANTING BELLIGERENT RIGHTS NOT A CAUSE FOR WAR-REASONS FOR INTER-

IFROM THE EEGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. Washington, Dec. 13.-The extended discussion of the Cuban question in the late message of the President, and the announcement that unless a settlement-fer which it is shown there is little reason to hope-takes place in the near future, the Administration will deem it expedient to enter upon a new and more vigorous policy, have given to the negotiations now pending between the United States and Spain a new and greatly increased importance-an importance which seems hardly to have been realized yet by the press and the people. The recognition of the national independence of the struggling Cubans, or the concession to them of belligerent rights. has long been urged upon the President by persons who had a strong sympathy for the unhappy island ers, or who had private and selfish ends to subserve; but even among the most enthusiastic of these rarely have there been found any bold enough to advise intervention by our Government between Spain and her rebellious colonists. And yet this is the expedient to which, the President tells us, he may yet resort, should the pending negotiations fail to put a stop to these scenes in Cuba which have shocked the civilized world and been a source of especial annoyance to our Government and our

As there seems to be in the popular mind some confusion in regard to just what intervention is, a few definitions and illustrations may not be out of place here. That the present condition of affairs in Cuba is greatly to be deplored, no one will deay. Its longer continuance will be an outrage on humanity and an ever-increasing source of danger to the peace and welfare of the United States. The questions for us to consider are: What different policies are now open to the United States? and which of them will it be wisest for us to choose! I shall contine myself in this letter chiefly to some remarks in answer to the first of these two questions. Wheaton, in treating of revolutions and the relations of other powers to the parties to a civil war, says:

powers to the parties to a civil war, says:

Until the revolution is consummated, while the civil war involving a contest for the Government continues, other States may remain indifferent since tators of the controversy, still continuing to treat the ancient government as sovereigh, and the government de faco as a society entitled to the rights of war against its enemy; or may espouse the cause of the party which they believe to have justice on its side. In the first case, the foreign State fulfills all its obligations under the law of nations; and neither party has any right to complain, provided it maintains an impartial neutrality. In the latter it becomes, of course, the enemy of the party against whom it declares itself, and the ally of the other; and as the positive law of nations makes no distinction in this respect between a just and an unjust war, the intervening State becomes entitled to all the rights of war against the opposite party.

Analyzing the first of these two alternatives, as

Analyzing the first of these two afternatives, a laid down by Wacaton, and applying the analysis to our present relations with Spain and Cuba, we find that, without jutervention, three policies are open to us. We may (1) take no p sitive action ourselves, but through the proper channels call upon Spain in the name of humanity, and in the name of American interests put in jeopardy, to adopt measures that will terminate the war or prevent the recurrence of its revolting concomitants, and insure a proper respect for the rights and property of American citisons. This is the policy to which the President has adhered, thus far, during the whole of his Adminis tration. Secondly, we may concede to the Cubans the rights of beligerents, or, thirdly, we may recognize their national independence. The President has shown conclusively, in his late message, that to adopt either of the last two policies would be for the present at least impolitic. No state of affairs now exists in Cuba to justify the United States either in recognizing the Cubans or conceding to them belligerent rights.

I have seen many persons in Washington who ecom to think that the recognition of the insurgents in Cuba, or the concession to them of the rights of belligerents, would be an unfriendly act toward Spain, and would be regarded by that power as just cause of war. The quotation I have already made from Wheaton shows that this is not so; h says that in such an instance " the foreign State fulfills all its obligations under the law of nations," it is simply a question of expediency, which we must decide for ourselves; it may be, under certain circumstances, a positive act of friendship toward the "ancient government," and if strict neutrality is observed, tried by the law of nations it cannot b an unfriendly act. This is the doctrine that has always been held by the United States, and was very

BELLIGFRENT RIGHTS.

foreibly stated by Webster, when Secretary of State in a letter to Chevalier Hülsemann, Austrian Minis ter to the United States. The President had sent a diplomatic agent to Vicana to learn whether i would be expedient to recognize the independence of Hungary, and the Austrian Government had protested. Mr. Webster, in reply to this protest, wrote to Hillsemann, Dec. 21, 1850:

It is the right of every independent State to enter into friendly relations with every other independent State. Of cause, questions of prudence naturally arise in reference to new States, brought by secessful revolutions into the family of nations; but it is not to be required of neutral powers that they should await the recognition of the new government by the parent State. No principle of partic law has been more frequently acted upon within the last 30 years, by the great powers of the world. If, therefore, the United States has gone so far asformally to acknowledge the independence of Hungary, although, as the result proved, it would have been a precipitate step, and one from which no benefit would have resulted to either party, it would not, nevertheless, have been an act against the law of nations, provided they took no part in her contest with Austria.

The same doctrine justified the United States in recognizing the Central and South American States before their independence was admitted by Spain. To be sure, we complained bitterly, in 1861, of the precipitancy with which Great Britain recognized the Southern Confederacy. But it was the "imme drate baste," to use the words of Mr. Adams, with which the thing was done that made it "practically not an act of neutrality," and which gave na on first ground of complaint : and the Alabama chilling which have since been paid by Great Britain wer based not on the act of recognition, but on the failure of the British Government to remain neutral. In the words of Mr. Fish, writing to Mr. Motley, "We com plain that, by reason of the imperfect discharge of its neutral duties on the part of the Queen's Government, Great Britain became the military, naval and financial basis of insurgent warfare against the United States." I am not arguing that we ought to give the Cuban insurgents the moral support of our recognition, for I think the positions taken on this point in the President's message are manswerable, but simply striving to show that, should our Gov erument ever deem it expedient to do so, it might recognize them and still maintain friendly relations with Spain. Some of the Spanish American States have already accorded such recognition to Cuba, and Spain has not declared war against them.

While the recognition of the independence or the concession of beiligerent rights to a new nation brought into existence by revolution, is not necessarily or generally, as I have shown, an unfriendly set toward the parent State, intervention, if not an act of war in itself, may be a just cause of war for the nation with whose internal offsirs the interference takes place. Intervention by a foreign power in a crvil war may have one or two objects in view: The foreign nation may esponse the cause of one of the combatants, in which case, as we have already seen, it "becomes the enemy of the party against whom it declares itself and the ally of the

other:" or the interference may be in the name of humanity, or to protect the essential interests of the government or people of the State that intervenes, In this latter case, according to Lawrence, "the law of nations only allows the intervention on condition that it shall be equal for both parties, that is to say, not carrying on hostilities against the one or protecting the other, and it must be without any object but to cause the war to terminate."

The President certainly does not contemplate, in any probable event, intervention of the first kind in Cuba. We certainly shall never become the ally of Spain in her attempt to conquer the Cubans, and no sane person would seriously propose that we should, just at this time, form an alliance with the Cubans to expel the Spaniards from the island. The only object of such an alliance could be the acquisition of Cuba, and this the President and his Cabinet are unanimously opposed to. The President's proposed intervention must, therefore, be in the name of humanity, or to protect the essential interests of our own Government and people; and, indeed, he has not left us in the dark on this point, but tells us plainly the grounds on which he thinks it may be expedient to interfere in Cuba. The immediate object to be sought will be to terminate the war, which, while it continues, will be attended by untold atrocities and a disregard for the rights of foreigners, and, at the same time, will prevent the realization of those reforms to which Spain has, upon paper, committed herself.

Should intervention be determined upon, the next question which arises, and it is a very important one, is in regard to the method of interference that is likely to be adopted. Precedents have less of force in international than in municipal law, and yet we shall be better able to judge what action any nation is likely to take, when certain events occur, if we know the course nations have heretofore pursued when called u on to deal with similar questions. The most notable instance in modern history of latervention of the character now under consideration is that of Greece. After centuries of intolerable oppression Greece revolted against Turkey, and the civil war which followed was marked by some of the most shocking atrocities that have blackened the page of history. Finally, in 1827, the Christian powers of Europe interfered, and profered a plan of ettlement which was considered by them fair and just both for the Turks and for the Greeks. The latter accepted and the former rejected the terms, whereupon instructions were given to the commanders of the allied squadrons to compel the cessation of hostilities. This was effected by the result of the battle of Navarino, with the occupancy of the Morea by French troops.

If the United States either alone or in conjunction with some European power intervenes in Cuba, it would be most natural that this precedent should be followed, and as the President is known to favor the autonomy of Cuba under a Spanish protectorate, is it not reasonable to suppose that some settlement of this kind may be what the Presi lent intends to submit to Spain for her consideration, provided he makes up his mind to recommend interference? Such a purpose, with a determination to put an end to hostilities in Cuba if the plan of settlement was rejected by either party to the strife, would exp'ain the late extraordinary naval preparations, which have not yet been satisfactorily accounted for. In tervention of this kind might not result in war, but no administration would dare to enter upon it un prepared to accept war as a possible alternative. If the United States should be joined in this intervention by one of the first-class powers of Europe, the danger of actual hostilities would be greatly re-

Would the country sustain the Administration in an attempt to make peace in Cuba by the means in-

OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN. EXTENT OF THE SPANISH CONCLESION-THE TERMS UNSATISFACTORY.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The present distinctive point at issue between the United States and Spain s stated in non-official but usually well-informed circles as follows: The United States ask, first, that in future all American citizens in Cuba accused of violation of law shall be tried by the civil courts. and not by military tribunals, with all the rights in the treaty of 1795; and second, that all sentences vhere American citizens have heretofore been tried by military tribunals shall be annulled. Spain in ome degree concedes the claim of the United States to the first proposition, agreeing that in the future American citizens accused of violation of law shall be tried by the ordinary tribunals, with the right to be heard by coursel, to summon witnesses, and employ other necessary safegnards to the accused; but with the reservation that all such trials shall be according to the law of 1821, which provides for more expeditious proceedings than those of the civil courts for common crimes in time of place. She also offers to revise all sentences passed by court-martial on American citizens where t shall be satisfactorily shown that such sentences vere in violation of established laws,

THE FRENCH GRIEVANCES. From L'Aventr National (French Government organ). Our press teems with accounts of the atrocithus are become so very manerous of 1ste Inst a maniunus pressure is being brought to bear upon the versuites Cabinet to take strong measures to abuse the evit
in concert with the Washungton Cabinet. The American
press has recounted not only the argustifiable marker of
Monsieur Respondant, but those of a dozen more by notsubjects by Valmese as regulars, though no in-ation has
been made of simbler outrages committed in Porto Rico.
A letter from St. Thomas, dated Oct. 29, to Le XIXe
Steele, thes the names of the Propanien who have been
tappisoned arbitrarily and executed by the Spanish authorities. It is therefore evident that
neither the lives nor the property of either
Europeans or Americans are safe in the
Spanish Colombes. Both England and France are also asanxious as the United States to bring such a state of
indings to a close through their combined efforts. It is a
matter in which every civilized country has a stake, be
cause such coulders spain is sure to have an tile presure brough to bear upon her will be afforded by Germany, when power is known to be negotiating for the
acquisition of St. Thomas from Demones, he exchange for
senlessing computed by that power from the latter a few
years since. This is confirmed by recent revelations
from authoritative high quarters and the presence of a
strong haval torce sept at that point by Blamarck for
some time pass, evidently studying the covered havai
station in the West Indias. The German freque Victoria
arrived that, or on Nov. 29 to refleve bor a ster side, the
Augusta, ordered home. It is intimated in some quarters
worthy of create complications, perhaps unlooked for,
should President Grant malature a vigorous enforcement
of the Monroe coefficient in solving both the Cuban question and forestalling Germany's prospects for the acquisition of territory in the New World.

CHARLES O'CONOR'S CONDITION. FORT WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.-Mr. O'Conor wa nore feeble to-day than yesterday, his pulse being omewhat weaker. About 1 o'clock this afternoon Mr. O'Conor took some caulidower, some mutton broth, and about two teaspoonfuls of mutton, chopped very fine. Up to midnight be retained this on his stomach, but there were no signs of digestion at that time. Incuediately after eating, Mr. O'Conor slept soundly for three bours. Puring the day he talked cheerfully to his attendants, and was able to feed himself, leaning upon his elbow for a few moments. The pepsin which he has taken with all his meals heretofore he has now refused to take. His physicians to-day advised Mr. O'Conor to try champagne as an invigorator, but this also Mr. O'Conor refused to take. Dr. Keyes says that he will venture no more opinious upon the case, as it is one of the most remarkable he everattended. He says that the case is a wonderful one, and that it is sure to be made historical. The patient has not taken any medicine for over a fortnight. The name of his

THE MOODY AND SANKEY MEETINGS PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 14.—The attendance at

the noon prayer-moeting to-day numbered fully 3,000. Mr. Moody complained of persons going into the inquiry

rooms on business of no pertinence whatever. One person had lately forced his way in, saying that he had im-pertant business with Mr. Moody. He only wished, how-ever, to shake hands with Mr. Moody, because they had both been born in England.

both been born in England.

The Depot Church was again erowded to-night, and many distinguished divines occupied scale upon the platform. Large delegations from Trenton, N. J., and West Chester, Penn., were present.

Heaven was the subject of Moody's discourse. The number that stood up for prayers was less than usual at the night meetings.

WASHINGTON.

SPECIE PAYMENTS.

MR. FARWELL'S CILL -- SOME DIGIT AUTHORITIES CITED IN PAVOR OF RESUMPTION. INV TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 .- The following is the text of the bill of Mr. Farwell of Illinois for the resumption of specie payments, introduced in the House of

Representatives:

Whereas, The Republican party, through its convention held in Philade-phia in 1872, did resolve as follows:
We denounce repudiation of the public debt in any form or disguise as a narional crime; we witness with pride the reduction of the principal of the debt and the rate of interest upon the balance, and confidently expect that our excellent halional currency will be perfected by a speedy resumption of speede payment; and Whereas, The Liberal Convention, brid in Cincinnati in 1872, resolved that "the public credit must be sacredly maintained, and we denounce repudiation in every form and gaise. A speedy return to speede payments is demanded alike by the highest considerations of commercial morasity and homest government;" and Whereas, Said Cincinnati resolutions were indorsed by the Democratic Convention, held in Baltimore on the 9th day of June, 1872; and

the Democratic Convention, held in Baltimore on the 9th day of June, 1872; and Whereas, Congress at its last session passed an act for the resumption of speede payments in 1879 without providing the requisite means.

Therefore, for the purpose of carrying into effect the resolutions and act of Congress above referred to, be it enacted, that the Secretary of the Treasury shall retire and cancel on the first days of cach and every month, beginning on the 18t of July, 1876, \$1,000,000 of United States holes; but when the United States notes shall be par with the gold colo of the United States, he may cease such redirements and cancellations. Section Second—That to enable the Secretary of the Treasury to carry out the provisions of this act, he is nevenly authorized to use the surplus revenue of the Treasury, but it such revenue apoint at any time be insufficient for this purpose, he is smouth at any time be insufficient for this purpose, he want therefore to sell the ton is of the Government to a sufficient amount to carry into effect the provisions of

ATTORNEY-GENERAL PIERREPONT'S RE-PORT.

CHANGES RECOMMENDED IN REGARD TO THE PAY-MENT OF MARSHALS AND OTHERS-THE ENOR-

MOUS BUSINESS OF THE COURT OF CLAIMS. Washington, Dec. 14.-In his report to Congress, which was sent to both Houses to-da, Attorney-General Pierrepont calls attention to the inhuman reatment of prisoners of the United States which sometimes takes place in the State prisons, and suggests that Congress migat give blin authority to change a prison-

Upon the subject of jurous in the United States Courts, the Atturney-General says there is no uniform system of obtaining jurors to serve in the courts of the United states, and great abuses have sprung up, and much favoritism and corruption are complained of. He suggests that an act be passed providing a uniform system. The deatts of Marsaals upon the Judiciary Produce enormous, ini, in the opinion of the Attorney-General, un-

moust 10.1, in the opinion of the Attorney centers, in reasonably large in many instances. The report says: I ask that a law be passed forbibiling the assue of an such certificates by any marked, and torbibiling the payment by any department of the Government, an abo forbibility and accounts have not been adjusted at the Treasu-for a period or more than six months, and forbibling an energie of mileage by marshals, but requiring them is remark accounts for actual expenses. The Attorney-General reviews the circumstances of

the late trial of Brigham Young, and his discharge, and | that the next political battle would be fought, not

It is, he thinks, for Congress to deal with this question

nd to decide whether much delay will not increase the difficulties. Of the Court of Claims the report says:
It is seen that the claims penning amount to the large
sum or \$0.600,240; that within the last our years the
independs rendered in this court against the United
states in favor of claim has amount to the sum of \$11,
000,947; that of the 0,508 causes disposed of since
1863, 003 were declied in invor of the concentrate, and
2,000 were declied in invor of the cammants; that has
year pulgman a were rendered against the Coverament
or \$2.510,005, and that up to Docean or of the preschyear for a sinc larger sum, reaching \$2,991,021.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 14, 1875. Capt. Eads of St. Louis began in May last, under authority of an act of Congress passed during the last session, the improvement of the navigation, by uccus of jetties, of the South Pass of the Mississippi River, and to-day the Secretary of War sent to Congre he first report of the Engineer Bureau on the progress of the work. The examination was made by M. or C B. Comstock, U. S. A., and relates to the work as it at peared on the 14th of November last. After describin the work already done, which consists of partly con structed jetties, compes d of a double line of piles place on cac, side of the channel, with mattresses placed against them on the channel side and testing on the bot on Major Comstock makes the following remarks On comparing the Coast Survey map of May and June 1875, with the survey of Oct. 8-14, 1875, there appears to have been not much change in the depth of water the mouth of the South Pass, on the whole. At the upper end of the jetties it may have mere sed a little. O. can of the jettles it may have mere used a little. On the bar it appears to mave diminished from one to two feet." This statement should find had to the conclusion that the jettles have failed, because the work done at the time this survey was made was not sufficiently compiled to confine the water of the Plass between the of ose. The distance between the piles was from 8 to 20 feet, and but one inver of mattresses, 2½ feet thick, had been placed in position.

ion to the cusrody of the Indian trust funds. These funds have been in the keeping of the Sceretary of the interior, and from time to time have been the occusion of loss to the Government from the neglect of officers and improper investment of the funds. The fund has not ached about \$7,000,000, and is invested in Unit States securities. Much of the fund was formerly in ested in Southern States securities which was lost t

The Schate Committees on [Foreign Relations, and or Post-Offices and Post Roads, held meetings to-day, while's the various nomin tions referred to them were is ferred to sub-committees for report. The Senat Finance Committee also met and passed a resolution o Finance Committee as net and person of Onio, formerly Cierk of that Committee, referring to his efficient services and his proved uprightness. Benjamin Purice of Onio, recently of the Treasury Department, was today appointed to succeed Mr. Roce as Ciers of the Finance

Yesterday's general dispatch, announcing that the Freasury would soon issue a circular r. quiring banks and others to prepay the express charges on national bank notes fit for e-rematian, forwarded for resemption, was intended to refer to legal-tender notes and fractional cur-rency, and not to national bank notes.

One of the largest booksellers on Pennsylvania-ave.

says that he had a greater call during the past week from members of Congress for standard works on finance and the currency than ever before. This is considered to

A NEW CLERK OF THE MARINE COURT.

The Judges of the Marine Court yesterday nvestigated the official conduct of Maurice J. Power Clerk of the Court. Mr. Power, in answer to statements which have been made throwing suspicion on his counts, presented a letter from the Finance Departmen which showed that he had settled with the Controller is accordance with his retunns. He then presented his resignation, which was not accepted, on the ground that he had shown neglect of duty in that his returns were not made at the proper time. He was accordingly removed from office by a unanimous vote.

A large number of persons have been seeking the po tion, and the names of Wm. C. Cody, a former clerk of the Court; James Hayes, George W. Morton, Desis Byrne, John D. Coughlin and A. M. Soteldo were presented b the judges. Soveral votes were taken, one of them being a tie between Mesars. Morton and Congains. Finally M. Caughin was elected. He was formerly Assistant Arsessor in the Twenty-second internal Revenue District, under John F. Cleveland. He was afterward elected a member of Assembly from the XXth District, and since the organization of the anti-Tammany party has been one of the Secretaries of the Executive Committee. BISHOP HAVEN'S SPEECH.

HIS OWN ACCOUNT OF IT. EIGHTEEN MINUTES, AND NOT TWO HOURS-THE PRESIDENT NOT RENOMINATED, BUT THE BRETH-REN ASKED TO PRAY FOR IT.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sin: The Portland fire, caused by a lad with a match, is surpassed by the newspaper conflagration caused by the slight event that occurred in Boston recently. Having read this afternoon the quotations in your issue of yesterday from The Philadelphia Item, I was highly gratified with the dramatic gift of the reporter. What a Shakespeare is lost in this unknown itemizer! I dislike to mar so pretty a tale. but the trush of history compels me to break the beautiful bubble.

That paper says I spoke "two hours," and then "the speaker raised himself upon his feet as if to look all around about and above the vast audience before him," and in "lond, steptorian tones" made the dreadful announcement, "I herewith, in the name of the American people and true Christianity, President, to a third term in the office of the President of the United States." This is so far from the truth that were not the face of THE TRIBUNE so painfully solemn over it one could hardly refrain from laughter. More laughable still is the reported action of the meeting. Nearly every voice in that vast audience of profound scholars and venerable ministers replied, as if with one breath, " I second the nomination."

Need I tell you that this is as complete a fancy sketch as any garret pencil artist ever drew ! The manner of the speaker and the conduct of his hearers could not have been more untruly put. As you have taken so much interest in the little event, allow me to give the very few facts from which the gorgeous

picture is painted. It is the custom of our preachers' meetings to invite their visitors to make some remarks on the subjects with which those visitors are familiar. I was thus requested to speak upon the South. The invitation was several weeks old. My engagements had prevented my being present at any previous meeting after the invitation had been extended. I did not expect to speak that morning, as Prof. Wells, by special arrangement, had the floor. It was the announcement of his speech, made the evening before to a crowded audience at Music Hall, that drew the multitude. Not 50 persons in the house knew that I had been invited, and hardly one of these expected me to speak. I came to the church near the close of the address, with no intention of speaking. After the Professor was through, the andience began to disperse. The President called me out. The preachers, some 50 or so (no 200 or baif that number were present at any time), and a hundred or two of the people sat down. I stepped to the front, did not ascend the pulpit platform, and not taking off my overcoat, spoke a few words. It was two or three minutes past twelve when I began, and twenty minutes past when I sat down. I noticed the clock both times. The "two hours" thus dwindles to eighteen minutes So dwindles the whole affair. I spoke of the loyalty of the men of color to our nation; of the large membership of our charen in the South; of our duty as : charch to be true to these, our brethren, as they would be to us. I quoted Mr. Wilson's dying remark, on the issues of finance or schools, but on the same

questions as before-liberty and union. I then added: "If we throw over our present ruler, who has saved us once, we shall rue it." That quotation is correctly made by The Hem reporter, and is the only correct item in his whole account so far as it relates to my acts or words. I never said or dreamed of saying that stilled speech with stretchedup form and rolling eyes-" I herewith," &c .- which he puts into my mouth. I del add, however, what he chooses to forget and what was the only peculiar word that I uttered-" Pray, brothren, for the renomination of President Grant," That was all I said. I never renominated him, as the papers had it. The Irazeller, I think, quoted me correctly. I asked the brethren to pray for the renomination. This I had a perfect right to do; a right as a chizea, as a hristian, as a minister, as a man.

represented. Some responded, Methodist fashion, by amens; some by the less Methodist fashion of stamping and clapping. How many responded I know not. Afterward they approved, by a rising vote, my words. How much that vote included I

his is the whole of the scene. It was not, as you suggest, "a put up job." Nobody expected it. I did not expect to say it when I arose. I did intend o write an article, which perhaps I should have offered Tit. TRIBUNE, into whose columns I have in he olden times once and again been admitted, which article I proposed to entitle "Pray for the Reciecion of President Grant." But no person had ever seard me speak of such a purpose. The word escaped ny lips before it did my pen, and a lost \$10, if not ore, that I might have earned.

This is the head and front and flank and rear of my offending. Nor is this an offense. Prayer carried or country into and through the great struggle a entury ago. Prayer carried us into and through ae greater struggle, a decade ago. Prayer must arry us through the struggles yet before us. Prayer s the Christian's especial privilege, the minister's special duty. I have prayed many a time in my ouip.t for previous Presidents, even for their election, and attended prayer meetings for that purpose. So have thousands of ministers. If any body of Chrisilins chooses to pray for the renomination and reflection of the President, I don't see what business he rest of the world has to meddle with it. We withdraw to a place and a communion the outside

world does not care or dare to enter, and where re-

porters are excluded, even if present. Nor is there in this the shadow of sectarianism. The attempt to bring the Methodist Episcopal hurch rate this field, and to make her a partisan in his strife, is most unjust. That church concerns perself in the affairs of State, as her loyal resolutions and loyal reports abundantly show. But she has ever, directly or indirectly, controlled nominations, and never shown a shadow of preference for the great soldier who saved her country over his two reat comrades in victory, Sherman and Sheridan, who are-the one by marriage, and the other by pirth-allied to the sect with which she is the most at variance. If Baptists, or Presbyterians, or Epispalians choose to pray for another man for our ruler, they have perfect liberty so to do, though I rust they will yet hold union meetings with the Methodists for this common object, as I know the Methodists would with them, if they participated at all in such a prayer-meeting, were the President illitiated with either of their bodies. We prayed for Lincoln, who attended the Presbyterian Church, the same as Grant does the Methodist, and we should for Sherman, were he as clearly the man of he hour as his great comrade. If the Catholies, as you suggest, desire the Pope for President, and I ave no doubt they do so desire, in fact it not in orm, they have a perfect right to pray for him.

This is not meddling with party politics, and if it be such, politics must accept the meddling. For pray the Christian people of this country will, and pray under the present division of public sentiment believe they should. And when they pray I am confident the laner light of conviction will lead them to the same conclusion that it led the Boston

the whole speech and act, been reported, that there would have been the least excitement over the affair. If there had been, none would have condemned the request as traveling out of the rights of the numbers. I never attended a political cancus or

convention in my life, except one or two little prohibitory meetings. I never expect to. But I do expect to express my views as to who should be President, in my own place, and subject to my own sense of propriety and that of the brethren or persons with whom I am associated. Especi-

ally have I the right to pray and to ask others to pray for the elevation of those I most approve to the headship of the State, even as I am bound to pray for those who are already in power. I trust you will see that this is a much ado about nothing, and do me the honor of so declaring I also request the other journals that have caught up this ery to give me the benefit of this explanation. Allow me to add one word more. THE TRIBUNE, in its first editorial on this subject, agrees exactly

with my views. "If the country," it says, "is in

any such peril as to make it " [Grant's renomination] "necessary as a measure of public safety, we shall hasten to support it." I thank you for that word. I differ from you in believing in that "if." But, differing or agreeing, I trust to enjoy the liberty which, in common with all others, I have ever enjoyed, of praying for what I feel it to be my duty to pray, and of asking my brethren to unite with me in like supplications, even if these prayers include so grave and great a subject as who shall be our next President. Very respectfully yours, GILBERT HAVEN.

Syracuse, Dec. 11, 1875.

POLITICAL.

A TRIUMPH IN BOSTON. MAYOR COBB RE-ELECTED BY A HANDSOME MAJOR-ITY-POPULAR BATIFICATION OF A REPUBLICAN

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

BOSTON, Dec. 14.—The result of to-day's election-namely, the return of Mayor Cobb, the Citizens' candidate, by almost 3,000 majority over Halsey J. Boardman, who was run on the regular Democratic, the egular Republican, the Liquor Dealers', and the Common Carriers' tickets-though ardently hoped for with fear and trembling by all the friends of good government, was more gratifying than the most sanguine had dared ex-Two years ago, Mayor Cobb, who, the year efore, had run against Henry L. Peirce for Congress as a Democrat, was nominated by both parties as an honest citizen, every way worthy to fill the Mayor's engir. Last year, though he had already made amself obnoxious to cliques and rings, they were powerless to prevent his renomination by acclamation, and hi election with only a few scattering votes against him. Tais year the opposition began early, and before the Convention delegates had been chosen, the issue between Mr. Cobb and all the politicians and enemies of good government was openly joined. Mr. Halsey J. Boardman, a Republican, and President of the Common Council, offered himself as a Council, offered himself as a candidate, and got through the Republican Conventier by a majority of one. The open understanding was that the Democrats were to nominate him also. The best Reomigated Mayor Cobb. To such straits were the traders put that they offered the Democrats the control both o the Aldermen and the School Committee, if they would take up Boardman. They did so, and both parties went in with their general tickets precisely alike, except in conditiates for School Committee. Their only opponents were the citizens and the bolting Republicans, and yet the traders were routed, rumshops, Custom-house, ex. pressmen, teamsters, and all.

NO CHOICE FOR SENATOR IN VIRGINIA.

ELEVEN ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES SHILL BEFORE THE CAUCUS-39 BALLOTS TAKEN WITHOUT A CHOICE. RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 14 .- The Conservative caucus to nominate a United States Senator met at 10 a m. and proceeded to bailot. Seven ballots were taken with no result. Flourney has been finally dropped. Tucker, Smith, and Smart were dropped twice each, and Johnston, Goode, and Letcher once each. The last ballot, Goode having been dropped on the previous one, resulted as follows: John W. Daniel, 60; ex-Gov. Smith. 52. The Goode men generally voted for Smith or not at The caccus adjourned till after the session of the General Assembly, at which a formal ballot was taken the caucus adopted a resolution that in voting to in joint assembly the Conservatives so scatter their votes as to prevent an election until a nom morrow, the new rule being withdrawn. Eleven clighter candidates yet remain, to wit: Goode, Dannels, Johnston, Tucker, Smita, Stuart, Robertson, Cochrane, Christian, Coganil, and Saeffey. The seven first manned are only entitled to one renomination. The friends of Goode, Dannels, and Johnston, who are conseded to be the strongest candidances, are backward in putting their men up for lear of combinations, which, defeating either one, will throw him out cathedy; hence the adoption of the new rule, similar to the one above mentioned, is probable.

THE UNION LEAGUE ELECTION.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 14.-The following is the result of the election for officers of the Union Learner held here yesterday. The Hon. John P. Verree was re elected President, the vote standing 501 for Mr. Verme 474 for Edward C. Knight, 3 for William Scilers. All the rest of the members of the ticket, led by J. Gillingham Pell for Vice-Bresident, and James L. Claghorn for

CANDIDATES SHOT AT THE POLLS. GALVE TON, Texas, Dec. 14.-Advices from faramores state that during the municipal election there on Esturday lighting occurred. Mesars, Morgan and Penentez, candidates for Mayor, were wounded and taree men and one boy were killed. Schor Paentez, Cu-tina's candidate, was elected. The city is now quiet.

FIRST NOTES OF THE TEXAS CAMPAIGN. GALVESTON, Texas, Dec. 14.-Ex-Gov. Davis has issued a call for a Republican State Convention at Houston, Jan. 12. Active preparations are being made for the State Democratic Convention, to assemble at Gal-vesson Jan. 5.

VARIOUS CITY ELECTIONS.

Boston, Dec. 14.-Manicipal elections took place in the State to-day. Worcester reflected Clara Jilison (Ind.) for Mayor by 3,900 to 3,436 for Verry (.cm.) Newburyport cast the largest vote ever known, allayor Atcanson (Rep.) was reflected by 398 plurality.

REPUBLICAN DISTECT ELECTIONS.

Primary elections were held last evening by the Custom-house Republicans in this city, in the various Assembly Districts, for the purpose of electing delegates to the Central Committee for 1876, and also to elect officers for the different district organizations. In the Is Assembly District two primary elections were held in different places, both parties claiming to be regular. One of these organizations styles itself the Union Republican Association. The matter of the dispute between these

organizations has been carried before the State Central Committee, which has not yet given its decision in the premises. The elections passed off querty, and, so far as could be learned, without any acrous disturbances. In the XVIn and XXIst Districts two electors were in the field. There were three tickets in the XXIs District.

The Local Board of Steamboat Inspectors yesterday resumed the investigation into the causes of the disaster to the City of Waco. William J. Carle, a scaman, employed at present by the Coast Wrecking Company, testified as to the conduction of the wreek. The Local Inspector of Galveston, who has been hold-

ing an investigation into the causes of the disaster. mig an investigation into the causes of the disaster, writes that he has examined a number of witnesses, and aids: "We have not been able thus far to find out the origin of the fire on board of the steamship City of Waco. Capt. Sawyer stated yesterday to us that one of the divers had reported to him that there had been a big fuse in the antip's lower hold, conveying the idea that some explosive material had exploded in that part of the ship, which corresponds with the explosion heard by the mate of the ship Caisdonia, whose testimony we have taken."

PRICE FOUR CENTS.

MR. BRISTOW'S RAID.

A LITTLE SECRET HISTORY.

THE PLOT PERRETED OUT INDEPENDENT OF THE REVENUE BUPEAU-HARD TO CONVINCE THE PRESIDENT OF M'DONALD'S GUILT - THE EVI-DENCE AGAINST GEN. BABCOCK RESCUED FROM

THE WHITE HOUSE. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

St. Louis, Dec. 14 .- The Republican of to-morrow will contain an article on the whisky prosecutions and the relation of the President, Secretary Bristow, and other prominent individuals with the matter While it is not deemed proper to give the names of the gentlemen from whom the information is derived, it is proper to state that the information comes from those who are advised whereof they speak. The article states that Mr. Bristow unquestionably knew, long before the open war had been declared, that the Government was being robbed. He urged upon Mr. Douglass the necessity for a more vigorous attempt at discovery and prosecution, but found that Mr. Douglass was hampered by outside influences; that ic was simply useless in what was now an emergency. Hence the removal of Mr. Douglass and the action of Mr. Bristow in taking matters into his own hands. He sent agents and detectives, without the knowledge of the Revenue Bureau, to every city in the country where large quantities of spirits were being manufactured, who by rigid observation accumulated masses of evidence.

The documentary evidence against Joyce and Me-Donald the Secretary transmitted to the President but he refused to be convinced and steadfastly held to the declaration that his friend McDonald was an innocent man incapable of corruption. Mr. Bristow, however, kept on until he had effected preparations for the great raid. McDonald becoming alarmed at the situation went to Washington, taking \$10,000 wrong from two distillers with him, "to wipe out the past," as shown in the recent trial. Where this money went will probably be developed in an approaching trial. Up to this time the President was probably convinced of the innocence of his Secretary and of McDonald. The latter tried to induce him to remove Mr. Bristow, saying it would be to the interest of the party to do so, hiding the real reason. So great was President Grant's infatuation that he still did not suspect McDonald's guilt. McDonald demanded that Secretary Bristow be turned out, and that he, McDonald, be assigned the duty of investigating suspicious affairs in this District. President Grant explained that to remove Mr. Bristow at that time would be unwise, as it would be construed into an attempt to prevent the exposure of trauds. McDonald then went to Mr. Bristow, determined

on a bold course to accomplish his end. He told Mr. Bristow he knew his game, and that he had a big job on hand, and he abruptly asked the Secretary, Do you intend to indict the folks out in my dis-"I certainly do if there is evidence of guilt. from the highest to the lowest." "Am I to understand that you intend to indict me !" "You shoul! so understand it, if there exists any evidence to connect you with the frauds." " Well, then, I would like to see you do it." McDonald explained at length the obstacles in the way of the Secretary, and then made a proposition of compromise as follows: 'I will agree to hand you my resignation, and to prevent any further 'crooked' running in my district if you will agree to let bygones be bygones, and not to prosecute the balance." Mr. Bristow replied: "I have determined that if I can secure evidence against you, you must go to the Penitentiary." " go to the Penitentiary? You'll have a nice ich at that game; but what of my proposition ?' The Secretary said: "If the President will parden you, I shall say nething more." McDonald was still unsatisfied and importunate, and the Secretary agreed to talk with the President about the matter. McDonald wrote his resignation and left. The Sec retary subsequently explained, as justification of his course, that he had tried every other means to convince President Grant of McDonald's guilt, and had despaired of accomplishing that end, and finally had recourse to McDonald's own confession. McDonald went to the President and told the story of his guilt, and the scene was an exciting one. Gen. Grant gave no answer to McDonmade. The Democrat came out with its disclosure; and it was too late for attempts at concealment.

The article states that when the dispatches sent to St. Louis by Gen. Babcock were found they were taken to the White House by Mr. Pierrepout. Gen. Babcock admitted writing them, and there was a lively breeze over the matter. Mr. Dyer was sent for and left St. Louis for Washington hastily. On his arrival he was met by the Attorney-General, who stated that the evidence against Gen. Babcock should first be submitted to him (the Attorney-General) that he might judge of the propriety of taking it to the Grand Jury. Mr. Dyer saw Mr. Bristow. The latter sent for Mr. Pierrepont, and re-minded him that he was not the Grand Jury, and would not be permitted to exercise its functions Soon after, Gen. Babcock was indicted by the Grand Jury. It is not certain that Gen. Babcock is here. The ramor circulated last night to that effect probably originates in mistaking Col. Babcock of Lawrence, Kan., for O. E. Babcock, of whom he is a

EX-GOV. REYNOLDS DECLINES.

Sr. Louis, Dec. 14 .- A dispatch says that he Pres deut desires that ex-Gov. T. C. Reynolds be seen proffered the appointment and has declined, but

SUMMING UP IN THE HILL CASE. INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 14.—The entire ses-

earing the argument in the Hill case. The Hon. Nelson Prossier and Gen. Brown for the Government, and the Hou. A. G. Porter and W. P. Fishback for the defense. TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

on of Judge Gresham's court to-day was occupied to

TORONTO, D.c. 14.—Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, ad other Canad an cities are being searched by New York decives, on the look out for the fugitive, Wilsiam at Tweed. INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., D. c. 14.—The Brotherhood of Lecomotive Freemen is in session here, 60 delegates being present trots 32 losges. The convention will be here during the week.

ALBANY, Dec. 14.—Capt. John Cooke, an old and equilar citizen, a veteran of two wars, died to-day at the age of 7. He was at the time of his death messenger in the Adjutant-teneral so thee.

Philade (Philade). Philade (Philade) is a passed an appropriation of \$20,000 for the Centendar, in the senate there were but two opposing votes; in the thouse the vote was 44 to 11.

BOSTON, Dec. 14. "The dedication of the new "Old south Church" will take place here to morrow evening. It is one of the newst church schuces in New England and cost, with lot on which it sum is, \$480.000. lot on which it stambs, \$480.000.

AUGUSTA, Mc., Dec. 14.—At a meeting of the Mame Centennal Commission to-day it was reported that the manufacturing interests will be inity represented. The display of grante promises to be extensive. One arm will send \$20,000 worth.

MONTREAL, Dec. 14.—Great dissatisfaction prevails among the draggists over Mr. Tailbu's new bill now be use the Legislatore, allowing must to magnifacture patent mechanics. The num pay to take and can therefore under-

OTTAWA, Dec. 14.—The Board of Trade I adopted a resolution asking the Dominion Board to memora the Government to secure if possible the right of Canada versus to Absertion cannot particularly the Champlain Canada without extra impost.

Boston, Dec. 14.—The Governor and Conneil to-day heard the patition of District Attainey Bilas of New York for the release of the forger, Spence Pettis, F. w. Jacobs of New York was associated with Mr. Phelps, and spoke in favor of the release of Pettis. It is not probable that the petition will be granted.

win to gradied.

INDIANAPULIS, Ind., Dec. 14.—The Indianapolis Brass and Supply Company made an anagument to-day for the benefit of their creditors. Their assets are placed at \$120,000, with habilities at \$20,000. The failure was caused by the irm's hability to make collections. About 100 men are thrown out or employment.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 14.—The Rev. J. J. Ransom of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Scuth, recently appeinted a missionary by the Tennessee Conference to hursh, sailed from this port yesterdry in the bars Templar for Rio Janeiro. The reversal gentleman was accompanied on beard by a number of clergymen and a delegation of ladge from the city characteristics.